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Borough of Louth

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1954

T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.
THE PRINTERIES
LOUTH

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BOROUGH OF LOUTH

1954—5

Chairman of the council:

MAYOR

Councillor W. R. Burr, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor F. R. Macdonald

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Alderman J. C. Wherry

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor L. C. Pell

Alderman T. Freer

Councillor R. M. Cross

Alderman E. W. Macdonald

Councillor F. W. Hutchinson

Councillor J. H. Annall

Councillor A. A. Jane

Councillor E. L. Turner

Councillor W. Patchett

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE COMMITTEE.

Vice-Chairman:

Alderman J. C. Shelton

Chairman:

Councillor P. J. T. Haxby

Councillor J. H. Annall

Councillor F. W. Hutchinson

Councillor C. W. Dunham

Councillor C. H. Paul

Councillor R. H. Brackenbury

Councillor J. H. Starsmore

Councillor F. R. Macdonald

Councillor S. King

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Louth.

I have pleasure presenting my annual report for 1954, prepared in accordance with the prescribed statutory requirements, on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough.

During the year there were 175 live births against 125 deaths of residents. Still births numbered 2, and 5 babies died within the first year of life. For purposes of assessment, these figures are translated into rates, which show the actual birth and death rates of the Borough to be superior to the corresponding national rates, even without the favourable adjustments to the local figures required for a true comparison. Compared with the previous year, the local birth rate showed a fractional decline, but the death rate, being reduced by 2.6, reached a record low level so far as local statistics are available.

In a small population, the still births and infant deaths are subject to year to year variation within limits, and for 1954 the former was very low, but the infant death rate was inferior to the national, which attained a new record of "lowness."

The cause of death and analysis of the ages at death followed the pattern of recent years, where the bulk of the deaths was attributed to diseases associated with the riper ages. This is a national expectation, when the toll, formerly taken by infant deaths and infectious diseases, is now comparatively negligible, and life is being prolonged by the agencies of preventive and curative medicine. One hears so much these days about our ageing population that the meaning is not always properly understood. It is a fact that many more of us are now attaining the age of 65 years than was the case formerly, but the expectation of life for the average male at 65 has increased only from 10.8 years a century ago to 12 in the 1950 years. We are thus far from the stage of becoming a population of doddering centenarians, or even octogenarians, as is sometimes implied. The practical significance, of course, of the changed, and changing, age distribution of the population will be felt in the housing needs and in the measures provided for the general care of the older groups.

The infectious diseases were both usual in type and few in number, apart from the sharp outbreak of whooping cough which occurred mainly in the second quarter of the year.

It is indeed a changed scene to find the diphtheria immunisation returns for the Borough to be poor instead of exemplary, but whatever the cause, the lapse is so unusual and out of character that one can only regard it as temporary. Equally timid was the response for seeking protection against whooping cough, but the outbreak of the disease during the year may help to awaken the social conscience about measures for averting or mitigating such attacks in future.

In the environmental field, the happenings of the year were somewhat dwarfed by the major considerations in the offing concerned with water, sewerage and slum clearance. Among the chief matters currently dealt with, were the improvements affecting the storage system of the water supply; the installation of suitable mechanical measures for controlling the purity of the water in the municipal swimming baths; and in another sphere, the temporary renewal of licenses for private slaughter houses, following the decontrol of meat, until the premises were brought up to the level of fitness and hygiene demanded by modern standards. Nothing of event occurred under the housing head, and demolition and clearance orders lay in the doldrums to await, hopefully, the vigorous efforts expected under the prospective programme of slum clearance.

When over 10,000 cases of food poisoning were officially notified in this country during 1953, the mountain—molehill platitude can hardly apply to the stress that continues to be necessary for safeguarding food from the various sources of contamination. The efforts of a busy sanitary inspector in this direction have their limitations unless they are supported by the voice of the housewife in her demand for clean food. The various womens' organisations could assist such campaign by direct complaint or by reporting to the sanitary inspector any gross irregularities noticed in food shops during their shopping rounds. While the customer remains mute and uncritical, the slovenly conducted premises will continue to compete on easy terms with its more exemplary neighbour.

In a busy year, I wish to thank the sanitary inspector, the surveyor, and the housing manager for their cordial help given in dealing with the various problems that arose. As this report synchronises with Mr. Dowson's retirement after 25 years service with the Council, I gratefully record my indebtedness to him for the solidly reliable help and mellow reasoning on which I could count at all times. The good wishes of all go with him in the well-earned leisure of his retirement.

In offering my good wishes also to Dr. Campbell, our County Medical Officer of Health, who is shortly to enter the retired list. I welcome the occasion to express my thanks for the courtesy and kindness which, on his part, have always been part of the official relationship.

Neither is it part of a formal duty that urges me to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee who, by their co-operation and encouragement, did everything to contribute to whatever success is claimed for the year's working.

W. J. KERRIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health

Louth; August 1955.

BOROUGH OF LOUTH

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

and Milk and Dairies Inspector :

M. DOWSON.

Surveyor :

J. C. BARBER, A.M.Inst.M.&CyE.

Meat Inspector :

J. A. BEAUMONT, M.R.C.V.S.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Borough in Acres	...	...	2,812
Registrar General's estimated mid year Home Population	11,350		
Density per acre	...	...	4.00
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1954	...		3,728
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	£39,595
Estimated product of Penny Rate	...	...	£243

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Births

(a)	LIVE	Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate	168	76	92
	Illegitimate	7	4	3
		175	80	95
(b)	STILL			
	Legitimate	2	—	2
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
		2	—	2

Actual live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	15.42	
Standardised birth rate for comparative purposes		
(Comparability factor 1.04)	16.0	(15.2)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.18	(0.36)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of live and still births	11.3	(24.0)

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	125	56	69
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population		11.01	
Standardised death rate for comparative purposes (Comparability factor 0.78)		8.6	(11.3)
Deaths from maternal causes		NIL	
Deaths from Infectious Diseases		1	

Deaths of Infants under 12 months old :

(a)	Cases	Male	Female
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
(b) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old :		Male	Female
		1	2

Causes of Infants deaths :

Respiratory failure	1 Day
Torn Tentorium Cerebellum	18 Hours
Epidermolysis Bullosa	5 Months
Convulsions and Whooping Cough	1 Month
Ruptured splenic artery— Probably of congenital origin	3 Hours

Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 related live births 28.6 (25.5)

Ages at Death.

Ages in Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/85	85+	Total
Deaths	5	2	2	2	1	3	8	15	27	43	17	125

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms

Ages in Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75+	Total
Cases	1	—	1	—	2	4	3	4	7	22

Anatomical Sites of Malignant Neoplasms.

	Male	Female
Stomach	—	1
Lung, bronchus	4	1
Breast	—	1
Uterus	—	2
Other sites	6	7
	10	12

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
2. Tuberculosis—other ...	—	—
3. Whooping Cough ...	1	—
4. Other Infective and parasitic diseases	2	—
5. Malignant neoplasm—Stomach ...	—	1
6. Malignant neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	4	1
7. Malignant neoplasm—Breast ...	—	1
8. Malignant neoplasm—Uterus	—	2
9. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	7
10. Diabetes ...	1	—
11. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	8	6
12. Coronary disease, angina ...	7	6
13. Other heart disease ...	6	6
14. Other circulatory disease ...	3	9
15. Influenza ...	—	1
16. Pneumonia ...	—	2
17. Bronchitis ...	—	4
18. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
19. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
20. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
21. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	1
22. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—
23. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
24. Congenital malformations ...	1	2
25. Other defined and ill defined diseases	8	15
26. Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	—
27. All other accidents ...	2	2
28. Suicide ...	—	1
	<hr/> 56 <hr/>	<hr/> 69 <hr/>

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services of the Area Laboratory Facilities.

We enjoyed the usual excellent co-operation and assistance from the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, to which we sent 341 samples of water, milk, ice cream, and specimens concerned with infectious disease investigation for the appropriate type of examinations. These examinations were, of course, done without cost to the Council but the eight chemical analyses required were done at fee rates by private concerns.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

As previously remarked, this town, for its population, must be unique regarding the extent of its hospital provisions which, as may be seen below, include out-patient departments, attended by visiting consultants covering the various forms of specialism. The County Council Clinic premises, being concerned mainly with the preventive aspects of medicine, operated services to that end. Some 1,800 children between the ages 1 to 5 years attended the County Council Infant Welfare Centre during the year.

The following list gives details of the services available

A—At the County Council's premises, 32, Queen Street, Louth.

School Children.

Weekly Clinic: Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

- (1) Ante-Natal: Tuesdays (2nd & 4th) 10 to 12 noon.
- (2) Diphtheria Immunisation: Tuesdays (2nd & 4th 2 p.m.)
- (3) Child Welfare: Tuesdays (all) 2 to 4 p.m.
- (4) Toddlers: Monday (1st & 3rd) 10 a.m.

Rheumatic and Heart Clinic by appointment, and also are Diphtheria Immunisation (school children) and Ultra Violet Light Sessions.

B—At County Infirmary, Louth: Out Patient Clinics.

At Louth & District Hospital. Out Patient Clinics

Ophthalmology—Monday 10 a.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat—Monday 2 p.m.
Ante Natal—Monday 2-30 p.m.
Psychiatry—Monday 2-30 p.m.
Dental—Monday 4 p.m.
Surgical—Tuesday 2-30 p.m.
and Friday 2-30 p.m.
Genito Urinary—Monday 9-30 a.m.
Chest—Wednesday 9 a.m.
Radiotherapy—Alt. Wednesdays 11 a.m.
Gynæcology—Thursday 11 a.m.
Venereology—Thursday 2 p.m.
Medical—Thursday 2-30 p.m.
Medical—Friday 10 a.m.
Orthopædic—Wednesday—(10 a.m. and
2-30 p.m. alternatively)
School Eye Clinic—1st Tuesday of
each month 10 a.m.

—
—
—
—
—
Monday 2-30 p.m. and
Thursday 10-30 a.m.
—
—
—
—
—
—
—
—

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1954.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population	
Whooping Cough	36	3.17	(2.4)
Measles	6	0.53	(3.3)
Scarlet Fever	1	0.09	(0.9)
Pneumonia	1	0.09	(0.6)
Sonne Dysentery	7	0.62	(0.7)
Erysipelas	1	0.09	(0.09)
Total	52		

The list shows the old familiars in very reduced numbers, excepting whooping cough. After the outbreak of the previous year, measles was not due for its periodic strike, but the whooping cough cases, which occurred during the second quarter of the year, were even more widespread than the notification numbers suggested and, unfortunately, one death resulted. The sonnei dysentery cases were the result of an infection in the children's ward of a hospital, which was quickly controlled.

The bracket numbers given in the table are the case rates for the country as a whole.

Prophylaxis measures against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox.

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, I give below the return of children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough, and the anti smallpox vaccinations.

(The bracket figures relate to those for 1953).

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 Years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
103 (145)	28 (21)	167 (209)

(b) **Whooping Cough Immunisation.** (Under five years)

Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
13 (4)	21 (4)	5 (2)	6 (1)	—	45 (11)

(c) **Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisations**
(Under five years)

Under one	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
4 (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	6 (—)

(d) **Anti Smallpox.**

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total ¹
(a) Primary Vaccinations	31 (36)	7 (10)	2 (5)	9 (13)	49 (64)
(b) Re-vaccinations	— (—)	— (2)	2 (2)	10 (11)	12 (15)

Disappointing is about the only term that can be applied to the numbers immunised against diphtheria, which were so markedly out of pattern with those of other years. The number immunised in the baby group for 1954 represented only 58% of the residents born during the previous year surviving to the age of one year, compared with 83% by similar computation for 1953; and though the index varied since the start of the local campaign, it never previously fell below 70%. It is difficult to explain the present aberration. It may be, when parents read about diphtheria deaths and notified cases for the whole country being reduced, respectively, from 722 and 18,600 in 1945, to 9 and 182 for 1954, that the signal is thought to be changed permanently to green. One can sympathise with this hopeful viewpoint when the disease at present kills not many more persons than thunderbolts, but as is constantly repeated by word of mouth and through the agency of the press, if the immunisation ceased or was materially reduced, the disease would return in all its former severity. That the danger is by no means theoretic was shown by the example in my report of last year and by the experience of other countries. Premature disarmament is as dangerous here as in other fields.

The response to prophylactic measures against whooping cough was somewhat timid, even allowing for the fact that the vaccine may not confer full protection against the disease. Experience, however, has shown if it does not abort an attack absolutely, its use, followed by interval booster doses as required, reduces the attack of this most serious of present day infections of infancy and early childhood to negligible proportions. In view of the serious chest invalidism that often results from whooping cough, there should not be any hesitancy about making use of this proven weapon of defence,

One wonders if the vast numbers who are unprotected against smallpox realise how much they owe to the vigilance of the public health services in shielding them from the danger of the disease, when the world to-day is little larger, in the travel sense, than Lincolnshire was a century ago. The supervision of immigrant arrivals by air and sea for possible infection or contact with small pox is strict, but far from infallible; and when only 18% of the children born in the Borough in 1953 were vaccinated, we realise better the numbers at risk should the defences be pierced. Moreover, vaccination against smallpox is necessary these days in the Services and by emmigrants, and the severity of the reaction is very different in the case of the re-vaccinated compared with the primary treatment given in adult life, which is a point to be remembered in favour of infant vaccination.

Tuberculsis: New Cases and Mortality during 1954

Age period (years)			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...		1						
5	...	...				1				
15	...	...						
25	...	...	3				1			
35	...	...		1			1			
45	...	...						1		
55	...	...						
65+	...	..		1						
Totals	...		3	3	—	1	2	1	—	—

The figures for the year do not show any drastic reduction in either the incidence of, or deaths from the disease, though there is a reduction compared with the average for the five antecedent years which showed 9.4 notifications and 3.6 deaths. One notification during the year was posthumous.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances in the area Water Supplies.

Water Reports.

	Satisfactory		Suspicious	Polluted	Total
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
(a) Public Supply. District Samples	121	28	6	15	170
(b) Investigatory Samples.					
Bore	11	—	—	—	11
Collecting Well No. 1	4	—	3	7	14
Collecting Well No. 2	3	—	2	9	14
Storage Reservoir	15	17	2	—	34
Totals	154	45	13	31	243

The results of sample examinations during the year gave disquieting and mystifying ~~abnormalities~~ ^{DEVIATIONS}, which suggested all was not right with the supply. It was already known that the unlined "wells" receiving the water from the bore were subject to variable pollution, but the supply when pumped from these was given sufficient corrective chlorine dosage before being delivered to the reservoir in Horncastle Road. It seemed evident, therefore, that either the chlorination system itself had occasional lapses in efficiency or that the seriously collapsed state of the roof and side covering of the reservoir allowed access intermittently of organic matter which was not controlled by the routine chlorination. The erratic incidence over the area of the faulty samples did not suggest the seat of trouble to be in the water mains, such as might arise from negative pressures following a large draw-off in a branch system or other sources.

Following a careful investigation by repeated sample taking at various points before the water entered the mains, and by residual chlorine estimations, a report was made to the Council, which received prompt attention. As the result of this, arrangements were made to remove the collapsed cover and protect the sides of the reservoir, in addition to such measures as were possible to reduce contamination of the "well" chambers. One is happy to state that since attention was focussed on the question, there has not been a single inferior sample from the district supply up to the time of writing.

Chemical analyses were carried out quarterly by the surveyor's department.

Five samples were taken, relating to three individual private supplies, only one of which conformed to accepted standards. The number of householders not on the public supply remained at 17.

Horncastle Road Sites.

The surveyor reported the completion of the new reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity at the site of the new bores. The temporary pump house was in course of erection and the three borehole pumps and two booster pumps were ready for delivery. This source continued to supply ten villages in the southern part of the Louth Rural District and, in addition, will later substitute the existing form of supply for the Borough. As the water from the source is exceptionally hard and contains a heavy content of oxide of iron, a scheme costing £100,000 was submitted to the Ministry for approving the necessary processes of softening and filtration.

Swimming Baths.

The Council decided, in view of certain opposition and the distance from the local schools, to abandon the project, referred to in my previous report of providing baths in Westgate Fields. The lease of the Maiden Row baths was temporarily renewed and its use agreed, subject to the installation of a proper chlorination system with adequate means of circulation. At the opening of the baths, break point chlorination was in use but the circulatory pumps were not installed until a much later period. In the early stages, the effects of the chemical concentration on the colouring matter lining the sides of the baths caused a turbid discolouration that made the baths unsuitable for child bathers. This required more frequent emptying and filling than would normally be necessary, but the short season and the poor weather conditions, however, reduced the problems. The question of course remains, that having provided the means of maintaining a water that will satisfy the highest bacteriological standard of purity, the clarity essential for safety will not be attained until a system of filtration is installed; and as the latter requirement seems dependent on acquiring a suitable site for the erection of new baths, the urgency for this suggests itself.

Drainage and Sewage.

Closets.

There were 16 privy vaults and 33 pail closets used by households in the district at the end of the year, as only one conversion of water carriage system was made, and four privies were substituted by chemical closets.

Through the Council's service, 27 pails and 8 privies were emptied weekly, and the remainder, consisting of farm properties

at the boundary areas, received attention by the individual householders.

Drains etc.

The sanitary inspector reported the following work done :—

Drains examined, tested, exposed etc. ...	26
Drains unstopped, repaired etc. ...	26
Pail closets repaired ...	2

New lengths of sewer were laid at the cattle market and at Stewton Lane housing site.

Sewerage and Sewer Disposal.

The surveyor reported as follows on this matter.

“ During the year a survey of the existing system began, which included making recordings of the flows with alterations to the over flow weirs where found necessary. Cleaning of the sewers was also in progress.

It is anticipated that larger sewers will be necessary at various points on the system, that surface water drains will be required to relieve the load, and that additions to the sewage disposal works will be necessary, particularly in dealing with storm water, but the extent of these will not be known until the full investigations are completed.”

House Refuse.

Weekly collections were carried out for practically all the households, shops, and institutions, without any serious complaints.

This was the first year that we depended entirely on controlled tipping as the means of disposing of the refuse. The ten acre site at London Road, which had been previously prepared, was put into operation at the beginning of the year and has continued to function satisfactorily.

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected.

(a) Ordinary Infectious Disease ...	4
(b) Tuberculosis ...	18
Rooms stripped and cleansed ...	Nil
Number of premises disinfested ...	7

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during year :—

(a) Abated as a result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector ...	101
(b) Reported to Council :	
(1) Statutory Notice issued ...	Nil
(2) Statutory Notice not issued ...	Nil

Details of Nuisances abated :—

	After informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke	1	Nil
Accumulation of refuse	3	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	3	Nil
Fowls, pigs and other animals	2	Nil
Dampness	5	Nil
Drainage	26	Nil
Other nuisances	61	Nil

Offensive Trades.

(a) Number of premises in district	...	2
(b) Number of Inspections	...	8
(c) Contraventions of Bye-laws	...	Nil

Knackers Yards.

Number Licensed	...	1	Now under Reconstruction
Number of Inspections	...	15	
Defects remedied	...	1	

Rat and Mice Destruction.

Number of rodent operatives employed	...	1
Number of premises treated :—		
(a) Dwelling houses	...	16
(b) Other premises	..	30

During the year 16 dwelling houses and 30 other premises were reported treated, which seems a small number, though I was informed the constantly made surveys did not reveal any evidence of major infestations. The surveys included the sewer system, which was done twice yearly, and routine general and particular checks over the district. When evidence of infestation was found, the necessary treatment was carried out, or advice given about the methods, the results of which were later checked.

War against the domestic rodents is now a major issue in disease prevention, as well it might be, in these days when food poisoning outbreaks—for which these pests are sometimes primarily responsible—increase rather than diminish, and many other diseases directly attributable to the rat are by no means uncommon. In the Borough, we have our share of piggeries, poultry runs and food stores, and were it not for the skilled and vigilant efforts of the rodent operator in controlling the danger of infestations, a serious public health trouble could easily arise. Doubtless, our sense of values in this field of work is affected by the rather lowly title of “rat-catcher” popularly bestowed on the operator, but he is, in fact, a person carrying out a technical and highly important job in the Council’s preventive services, the report of whose work will, in future, be incorporated in the Sanitary Inspector’s routine reports to the Council.

Shops Act, 1950.

(a)	Number of shops inspected	...	...	38
(b)	Contraventions remedied	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections.

For purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	18	2	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	103	128	2	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	6	1	Nil
Totals	119	152	5	Nil

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	Nil	1
Sanitary Conveniences :				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	1
Totals	5	5	Nil	2

3. Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers from returns submitted	Contraventions
Making wearing apparel	36	1
Totals	36	1

SECTION D

Housing

Total number of new Houses erected during the year	74
(1) By the Local Authority	43
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	31

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	163
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	265
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	112
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	148
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	86
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	28

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	22
--	-----------

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceeding under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses subject to undertakings	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Sections 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and under Sections 25 and 26		
(1)	Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a)		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	5
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	5
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	34½—(38 individuals)
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		
		2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		
		4

(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	29½—(35 individuals)
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	...			Nil
(5) Housing Act, 1949.					
(a)	Number of applications for grants received	...			9
(b)	Number of grants made	...	...		9
(c)	Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	...	...	...	7
(6) Movable Dwellings, Tents, Caravans, etc.					
(a)	Number of Site Licenses	...	...		Nil
(b)	Number inspected during the year :—				
	(1) Sites	...	...	...	Nil
	(2) Dwellings	...	...	...	15
(c)	Number of individual licenses	...	...		9
(d)	Number of contraventions remedied	...			Nil

Housing.

The Council houses completed during the year comprised 12 maisonettes and 31 three bedroom houses, all of which were built at the Monks Dyke end of the Eastfield Road Estate.

The Housing Manager, in his report at the year's end, made an analysis of the applicants for Council houses, which showed a total of 164 on the waiting list for post-war houses and a further 87 unclassified cases who mainly wanted houses at pre-war rentals. These figures were 'gross' totals which included 39 additions as 'probable applicants', but it was not possible at the time to compile an up-to-date nett register. A summary showed that out of the 164 total, 51 represented young couples who were either living in lodgings or tenants of unsuitable houses, and the fact that 34 of the number were childless was probably the result of the conditions under which they had to live. Of the remainder, there were 24 families of various ages, tenanted houses unsatisfactory for one reason or another, while the elderly couples and single person applicants showed an increase that was to be expected in the existing population trend. In the light of the Slum Clearance programme, which the Council will later be obliged to undertake, it will be necessary to compile a true live register of the applicants on the waiting list in order to budget for the necessary allocations towards slum clearance. The aged couples and single individuals, occupying the great majority of the houses which will come under the Clearance programme, have long remained passively at the back of the housing queue, and when their turn comes, it is hoped the Council will tackle the problem with the zest that it demands. Before the war, many of these groups of substandard houses were being considered for clearance,

and since then, they have been vaguely alluded to as 'condemned' properties, which meant, in effect, that repair work was limited solely to efforts to make them weatherproof, while the general deterioration progressed. Previously, there may have been a strong and practical case against piecemeal efforts at demolition, but with the national drive in the offing, the cleaning up of these sore spots offers a challenge which should, and must, be accepted.

No demolition orders were made during the year, and though particulars and plans of two prospective clearance areas were prepared, their presentation was postponed pending a more opportune time. Dwellings, however, were reduced by six as two collapsed and four were taken over for business purposes.

Two new cases of overcrowding occurred during the year in addition to the seven cases at the beginning, and of these, four were relieved. Of the remainder, four were 'old cases' with intermittent rather than permanent overcrowding.

There were nine applications for grants, which were duly made, under the Housing Act, 1949, but only one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which came into force during the second half of the year.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The following shows a list of food premises in the Borough to which the Sanitary Inspector paid routine and special visits in connexion with hygienic observances:—

Hotels	...	6
Restaurants	...	5
Snack Bars	...	7
Butchers, Pork Butchers	...	24
Fried Fish Shops	...	5
Wet Fish Shops	...	4
Bakers	...	13
Grocers and Confectioners	...	48
Milk Dealers	...	31
Ice Cream	...	49
Dairies	...	3
Jam and Preserve Manufacturers		1

Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Jam and Preserve Manufacturers		1
Ice Cream Premises	...	49
Dairies	...	3
Manufacture or preparation of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	29

The Sanitary Inspector reported "that constant visits were paid to food premises and the standard has generally risen over the past few years until it can be said now to be generally good. Constant hot water provisions are now almost universal and all premises carrying stocks of food have refrigerators." The inspector commented on the difficulty of getting some traders to cover, adequately, food displayed in the windows, on the rather flimsy grounds that they served customers direct from the windows. No such difficulty was experienced by others, who either provided window protection or who arranged their displays otherwise. During the visits of the Sanitary Inspector, minor infringements were found and remedied, but in 14 cases formal notices required to be served before the necessary attention was given. These included four cases where food required to be protected against flies and dust, five for various repairs to premises, and others were concerned with providing hand washing notices in toilets, receptacles provision for refuse storage and general cleansing

The use of poster displays and leaflets was, as usual, employed to serve as reminders for traders as well as for the information of the public in support of the educational effort.

Details of some of the individual matters coming under this category are given below.

Meat.

The chief event of the year was the de-control of meat and livestock, which involved, at short notice, the examination of the 13 slaughterhouses which had been licensed prior to the war, with the view to securing adequate slaughtering facilities on the operative date, without the inclusion of premises that could not be brought up to modern standards of suitability. After meetings with the traders, and following much discussion, the Council decided to license six premises, subject to the owners carrying out structural additions and repairs recommended by their officers. It is a pleasure to mention the ready co-operation that was forthcoming from the butchers, once it was realised that the premises which served during the abnormal control period fell far below the standards that would be expected from private traders starting anew. One license was granted in direct opposition to my advice, in the case of a premises where slaughtering would be done beside, and in direct communication with, a knacker's yard, which was under the same ownership. A big question of principle and precedence was involved here, which cast no reflection on the owner's probity, nor was the issue affected by the information that the knacker's section was used only for receiving carcasses.

The report of the Council's Meat Inspector, Mr. J. W. Beaumont, C.V.S., of the result of his inspection of carcasses is as follows :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1168	119	112	4389	5436
Number inspected	1168	119	112	4400	5459
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	2	9	6	52	45
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	64	12	2	496	63
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.65	17.64	7.14	12.45	1.99
(b) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	2	5	1	Nil	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	10	Nil	Nil	321
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.25	12.60	.89	Nil	6.15

Butchers' Shops.

The Sanitary Inspector reported having paid 74 visits, in the course of which, five contraventions were found and remedied at request. All of these shops were licensed for the manufacture of meat products, and five premises, also concerned with the preparation of meat products, were given 27 visits. Renewals of a chopping block, hardwood table, and counter and window boards were carried out in one butcher's shop.

Other Food Premises.

41 visits were paid to bakehouses and no contraventions were reported.

A total of 156 visits was carried out to food premises, apart from those dealing in milk and ice cream, which included retail shops, cafes, hotels, etc., and nine faults found were subsequently remedied.

The following goods, after examination, were condemned as unfit for human use and disposed of where appropriate, either at the knacker's yard or to the North Lincs. Cattle By-Products Ltd.

Canned Meats	262 lbs
Milk	52 Tins
Fruit, Fish, Soup, Veggies.	372 „ (Approx. 1190 lbs.)
Cream	2 „
Cheese	30 lbs.
Beef Sausage	30 lbs.
Marmalade	1 Tin

Milk.

The number of distributors on the local register during the year was 35, of whom 31 sold heat treated only, in the form of pasteurized— T.T. or ordinary—or sterilized. The latter type was retailed from shops mainly to meet emergency demands. Three of the remaining four retailed raw T.T., and the single retailer of raw non-designated milk supplied less than ten cottages. We had thus, at last arrived at the stage when the public were being supplied with a tubercle free milk, though the aim is to have the total supply pasteurized in the general interests of safety.

Samples were taken in 41 cases of the pasteurized supply, with results that showed they conformed to proper pasteurization standards. Only one sample was examined from each of the raw milk retailers and these were satisfactory for the hygienic standard. In conjunction with the County Council, 10 samples for biological examination, concerned with the presence or otherwise of B. tuberculosis and B. Abortus, proved negative.

The Sanitary Inspector made 25 visits to dairy premises and reported two contraventions, which were remedied.

Ice Cream.

The number of manufacturers, and premises licensed for sale remained the same as the previous year at 1 and 49 respectively.

In the course of the 52 inspections of premises made, the inspector reported very satisfactory conditions, which were borne out by the results of the samples taken—shown below -95% of which were in satisfactory gradings. The number of samples was less than those taken in other years, but this trade has now arrived at the adult stage when it no longer requires the constant supervision of earlier years.

I am glad to mention the degree of interest and the co-operation experienced from the wholesale suppliers outside the district about the sample reports of their products.

	Grades			
	1	2	3	4
(1) Produced in Borough	2	—	—	—
(2) Produced ex Borough	32	2	2	—
Totals	34	2	2	—

